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Directorate of Civil Works

Economic and Environmental
Conference
July 2002

Estuary Restoration Act of 2000

Title I of Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000

PL 106-457, November 7, 2000

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Purposes

- **Promote restoration of estuary habitat**
- **Develop a national estuary strategy**
- **Provide Federal assistance**
- **Develop and enhance monitoring and research capabilities**

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Key Elements - Council

- **Estuary Habitat Restoration Council members**
  - **Army, NOAA, EPA, U.S.F&WS, Agriculture**
- **Responsibilities**
  - **Develop a Strategy**
  - **Solicit, review, evaluate and recommend proposals for funding**
  - **Advise on database, monitoring standards and required reports**

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Key Elements – Strategy

- **Ensure a comprehensive approach to maximize benefits**
- **Foster coordination of Federal and non-Federal activities**
- **Goal - restore 1,000,000 acres by 2010**
- **Develop in a manner consistent with estuary management or habitat restoration plans**
- **Include proposals, methods and guidance on seven elements**

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Key Elements - Program

- **Authority for the Secretary of the Army to implement projects and provide technical assistance**
- **Non-Federal interests originate projects**
- **Projects are cost-shared**
  - **for most Federal share ≤ 65%**
- **Projects selected from list prepared by the Council**

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Key Elements – Program con't.

- **Projects must**
  - **address needs identified in a restoration plan**
  - **consistent with the strategy**
  - **include a monitoring plan**
  - **Have a non-Federal interest that can meet the items of local cooperation including O&M**
- **8 items to consider listed in law**
  - **including scientific merit, technical feasibility, cost effectiveness and other**
- **2 Priority factors**

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Key Element - Monitoring

- **Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere is to:**
  - **develop and maintain a database**
  - **develop standard data formats**
  - **make the information available to public**
  - **$1.5 million is authorized to be appropriated each year 2001 - 2005**

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Status

- Interagency working group has been meeting for about 1.5 years
- Estuary Habitat Restoration Council
  - Met 3 times
  - Next meeting 28 August
- Draft Strategy published
  - Comments being reviewed
- $200,000 received in FY2002

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Miscellaneous

- **Funding**
  - **$275 million authorized to be appropriated 2001-2005**
  - **FY 2003 Budget request $100,000**
- **More information**
  - **http://www.usace.army.mil/estuary.html**